

Received(Date): 26 SEP 2001 10:25:00

From: Edmund C. Moy (CN=Edmund C. Moy/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
To: Jodey Arrington (CN=Jodey Arrington/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Stuart W. Bowen (CN=Stuart W. Bowen/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Rebecca Contreras (CN=Rebecca Contreras/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Jane M. Cook (CN=Jane M. Cook/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Don E. Eberly (CN=Don E. Eberly/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Ashley Estes (CN=Ashley Estes/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Matthew A. Schlapp (CN=Matthew A. Schlapp/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Matthew R. Erbaugh (CN=Matthew R. Erbaugh/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Stephen M. Garrison (CN=Stephen M. Garrison/OU=OPD/O=EOP@EOP [OPD]), Denise G. Gitsham (CN=Denise G. Gitsham/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Tim Goeglein (CN=Tim Goeglein/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Dina Powell (CN=Dina Powell/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Peter H. Wehner (CN=Peter H. Wehner/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Don R. Willett (CN=Don R. Willett/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Sarah E. Youssef (CN=Sarah E. Youssef/OU=OPD/O=EOP@EOP [OPD]), Catharine A. Ryn (CN=Catharine A. Ryn/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Lisa E. Oliphant (CN=Lisa E. Oliphant/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Deborah K. Hair (CN=Deborah K. Hair/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Kim E. Nickles (CN=Kim E. Nickles/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), John P. McConnell (CN=John P. McConnell/OU=OVP/O=EOP@EOP [OVP]), Michael J. Gerson (CN=Michael J. Gerson/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Justin A. Grove (CN=Justin A. Grove/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Christa J. Bailey (CN=Christa J. Bailey/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Robert T. Pratt Jr (CN=Robert T. Pratt Jr/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Chris B. Nagel (CN=Chris B. Nagel/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Karen D. Cruson (CN=Karen D. Cruson/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Charity N. Wallace (CN=Charity N. Wallace/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Susan B. Ralston (CN=Susan B. Ralston/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Eric L. Motley (CN=Eric L. Motley/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Sarah M. Lenti (CN=Sarah M. Lenti/OU=NSC/O=EOP@EOP [NSC]), Rachel L. Brand (CN=Rachel L. Brand/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), OVERTON#032#BRUCE@ustr.gov (OVERTON#032#BRUCE@ustr.gov [UNKNOWN]), Ruth E. Elliott (CN=Ruth E. Elliott/OU=NSC/O=EOP@EOP [NSC]), Thomas A. Bezas (CN=Thomas A. Bezas/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Ashley E. Plaxico (CN=Ashley E. Plaxico/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Michael J. Bell (CN=Michael J. Bell/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Reed Dickens (CN=Reed Dickens/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Deanna R. Rodriguez (CN=Deanna R. Rodriguez/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), (b)(6) @ inet [UNKNOWN]), Matthew L. Wendel (CN=Matthew L. Wendel/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), David Kuo (CN=David Kuo/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Sarah Penny (CN=Sarah Penny/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Todd W. Beyer (CN=Todd W. Beyer/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Leslie A. Shockley (CN=Leslie A. Shockley/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), David.Contreras@sba.gov (David.Contreras@sba.gov [UNKNOWN]), Lynn A. Crable (CN=Lynn A. Crable/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Lindsay J. Bourns (CN=Lindsay J. Bourns/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Timothy C. Stout (CN=Timothy C. Stout/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), John M. Bridgeland (CN=John M. Bridgeland/OU=OPD/O=EOP@EOP [OPD]), Margaret M. LaMontagne (CN=Margaret M. LaMontagne/OU=OPD/O=EOP@EOP [OPD]), Josephine B. Robinson (CN=Josephine B. Robinson/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Logan M. Walters (CN=Logan M. Walters/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), H. Christopher Bartolomucci (CN=H. Christopher Bartolomucci/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Edward Ingle (CN=Edward Ingle/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Brett M. Kavanaugh (CN=Brett M. Kavanaugh/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), John B. Bellinger (CN=John B. Bellinger/OU=NSC/O=EOP@EOP [NSC]), A. Morgan Middlemas (CN=A. Morgan Middlemas/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Allison L. Riepenhoff (CN=Allison L. Riepenhoff/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Michael Shannon (CN=Michael Shannon/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), L. Camille Welborn (CN=L. Camille Welborn/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Karen Hughes (CN=Karen

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Bcc: [redacted] (b)(6) @ inet [UNKNOWN])

Subject: : Bush: 'Tell my Southern Baptist friends how much I love them

Begin Original ARMS Header

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR:Edmund C. Moy (CN=Edmund C. Moy/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME:26-SEP-2001 10:25:00.00

SUBJECT:: Bush: 'Tell my Southern Baptist friends how much I love them

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BCC [redacted] (b)(6) @ inet [UNKNOWN])
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End Original ARMS Header

From our brother Pedro at HHS. Thought you all would be encouraged further about the Christian brother we serve.
----- Forwarded by Edmund C. Moy/WHO/EOP on 09/26/2001
10:23 AM -----

pmoreno@acf.dhhs.gov (Pedro Moreno)
09/26/2001 10:12:42 AM

Please respond to pmoreno@acf.dhhs.gov
Record Type: Record

To: Edmund C. Moy/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: Bush: 'Tell my Southern Baptist friends how much I love them

Ed,
Just got this from a friend in Atlanta. I thought you would be interested in it (maybe you could copy Jodey and Stuart). Things are going well here at HHS. See you tomorrow noon!
Blessings,
Pedro
Pedro C. Moreno
^^^^^^

Just received this from church. Knew you would be interested in reading this.

Mary Donna

Bush: 'Tell my Southern Baptist friends how much I love them'

By Todd Starnes WASHINGTON (BP)--James Merritt, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of the Atlanta-area First Baptist Church, Snellville, was one of six ministers invited to join President Bush for a closed-door meeting just hours before the president addressed a joint session

of Congress on Sept. 20. "I think I can speak for the entire group when I say

that without question, we all came away impressed with where he is right now

as a leader and where he is spiritually," Merritt told Baptist Press. "I was

very elated and came away from the meeting encouraged." Merritt said the six

religious leaders spent 30 minutes with the president talking about the importance of Americans to come together spiritually and the importance of faith. "Those were the things on his heart and mind," Merritt said. "He shared with us that he is being very deliberate and he is going to uphold his

responsibility to defend this nation. "This meeting was a signal that this is

a president who understands the foundation of this nation is not financial, economical or military," Merritt said. "The foundation of this nation is spiritual." At times, Merritt said, the president became emotional. "He is a

man of deep faith," he said. "The president is without question a compassionate conservative. His heart is broken over what has happened." Merritt said the president requested prayer from the group of leaders. "He wanted to share with us his need for prayer and his need for wisdom during these days," Merritt said. "Physically, he is doing well. Emotionally, he is

totally at peace. He knows where he wants to lead the nation." Merritt said the religious leaders stood in a circle with the president, clasped hands, and prayed. "For a president to take 30 minutes to spend with religious leaders tells you where his priorities are," Merritt said. "The fact that

we

were able to interact with him in that type of setting is remarkable. He listened more than he spoke." While some ministers offered counsel to the president, Merritt said he simply offered a word of encouragement. "As fellow

believers we believe in the sovereignty of God. On the one hand, God knew what was going to happen on Sept. 11, but he also knew who would be sitting in the White House. I believe that President Bush is God's man for this hour.

God's hand is on him. "I encouraged him to humble himself to the Lord and God

will lead him in a divine, providential way," Merritt said. After the meeting, Merritt asked the president how Christians could pray for him.

"First, he said to pray for wisdom; second, strength; third for clarity of thought; and he asked us to say a special prayer for his wife, daughters and

family that God would protect them and he would be a godly husband and godly

father," Merritt said. At the end of the meeting, Merritt said he shook the president's hand and told him that "I loved him." "That's when he looked at me and said, 'James, tell all my Southern Baptist friends how much I love them as well.'" While Merritt said he never dreamed he would be in the Oval Office, he said the most impressive memory of the prayer time was the president. "Again, what I will remember is that we have a president who has a

genuine love for Christ," Merritt said. Prior to the Oval Office gathering, Merritt attended a noontime meeting at the White House with ministers from 30

other denominations including evangelist Franklin Graham and Christian author

Max Lucado. -----